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REASONS
FOR GIVING
ENCOURAGEMENT

TO THE
SEA-FARING PEOPLE *Navy*
OF
GREAT-BRITAIN,

IN TIMES OF
PEACE or WAR,

FOR
The more effectually Destroying
Enemies or Pirates at all Times.

AND
For Distressing the Commerce of the
Subjects of SPAIN at this Time.

WITH
Some of the many remarkable ACTIONS
between the ENGLISH and SPANIARDS
at Sea.

L O N D O N:

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THE
SOCIETY
OF
THE
SACRAMENT
OF
THE
Eucharist
AND
THE
SACRAMENT
OF
THE
Eucharist

The
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REASONS
FOR GIVING
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TO THE
SEA-FARING PEOPLE
OF
GREAT BRITAIN.



It has long been the Happiness and Glory of *Great Britain*, to be, not only Master of the greatest Number of Ships of War, but in a Situation to muster, in the shortest Time, the best and most considerable Body of able Seamen, both to Fight and Navigate them, of any Prince or State in the World; owing entirely to its being an Island, together with the Greatness of its Trade, and Extensiveness of its Commerce, beyond any other Nation.

And, as it is an undoubted Truth, that the Ships and Seamen of this Kingdom are its proper and natural Strength and Security, and that this Nation can only flourish by Trade, and will be most Formidable by the Right Application of its Naval Force, so nothing is more certain, than that it is for the Interest and Reputation of *Great Britain* to have, always, a Number of Ships at Sea, in different Parts of the World, and a much greater Number in such Readiness, as that, in a very short Time, such a Strength may be sent to Sea, as to prevent our being Encroached upon, or Insulted, in remote Parts, much more Invaded at Home: And, if the Ships, which have been stationed for so many Years past in *America*, or which might have been ordered to all Parts of it, had been directed to act, or, when directed to act, permitted to have carried such Directions into Execution, it is very probable, that the *Spaniards* would, long ago, have discontinued their Depredations on the Trade of *Great Britain*, and readily departed from their groundless Pretensions of a Right to search *British* Ships or Vessels in any Part of *America* whatsoever: For it is certainly a true Observation, that was made in Print many Years ago, “ That, if we recover and enlarge our
 “ Trade by any new Treaties we may enter
 “ into with *France*, *Spain*, and other Coun-
 “ tries, yet the Protection and Care of it will
 “ very much consist in putting ourselves upon
 “ such a Foot, as that, in our Colonies, Plan-
 “ tations;

" tations, and Factories Abroad, we may
 " more depend upon our proper Strength than
 " our Alliances, to make them good in di-
 " stant Countries : And that the Naval Power
 " of *Great Britain* is such, and so augmented
 " since the Revolution, that We must
 " be mightily defective in Conduct, if We
 " suffer Ourselves to be Encroached upon
 " or Insulted in remote Parts : And that, pro-
 " bably, the best Security against any future
 " Designs or Attempts, from the *French*, or
 " any other Potentate, will be, to have a
 " Naval Strength in the *West Indies*, or distant
 " Parts, equal, at least, to any Nation in
 " *Europe* ; for competent Fleets, disposed in
 " convenient Stations, may not only preserve
 " Our Merchants from any Wrong, but like-
 " wise render *Great Britain* Formidable in the
 " *American* and *Mediterranean* and *Northern*
 " Seas, where they judge of the Greatness of
 " other Countries, as they see them Strong
 " and Powerful upon their Coast."

The Seamen of *Great Britain* are a Race of
 People, of all other, the most Valuable to
 this Nation, on many Accounts ; but, parti-
 cularly, as they Mann the Royal Navy, which
 is the Kingdom's chief Defence, and the only
 Security of its Commerce : And, as they are a
 Body of Brave and Hardy Men, and subject
 to the greatest Danger, the greatest Care
 should be taken of them, and the greatest Re-
 gard had for them : And, tho' it may be ad-
 vanced with Truth, that there are no Sea-
 faring

faring People in *Europe* have equal, or near, the Advantages as the Seamen of *Great Britain*, whether We consider the Greatness of their Wages, or the Goodness of their Provisions, and this not only in the Employment of the Government, but also of the Merchants of *Great Britain*, yet, in order for the better retaining them in the Service of the Nation, and for the more effectual preventing any of them from going into the Service of any Foreign Prince and State, and for an Inducement to such Seamen as are in any Foreign Service at this Time, to take the first Opportunity of returning to this Kingdom, it is greatly to be wished, that effectual Provision may be made by the Legislature, at their next Meeting, not only for answering these Ends, but for the giving Encouragement to such of the Seamen of *Great Britain*, who shall take or destroy an Enemy, either at Sea, or in any other Port or Harbour.

It is declared in the Preamble of an Act passed in the 7th and 8th Year of the Reign of King *William* the Third, entitled, *An Act for the Increase and Encouragement of Seamen*,
 “ That the Strength and Safety of this and
 “ other His Majesty’s Realms and Dominions,
 “ do very much depend upon the furnishing
 “ and supplying of His Majesty’s Royal Navy
 “ with a competent Number of Able Seamen
 “ and Mariners, which may be at all Times
 “ in a Readiness for that Service; and that,
 “ as the Seamen of this Kingdom have, for a
 “ long

" long Time, distinguished themselves thro'
 " out the World, by their Industry and Skill-
 " fulness in their Employments, and by their
 " Courage and Constancy manifested in En-
 " gagements for the Defence and Honour of
 " their Native Country : And, for an Encou-
 " ragement to them to maintain this their
 " antient Reputation, and to invite a greater
 " Number of His Majesty's Subjects to betake
 " themselves to the Sea, it is fit and reason-
 " able that some competent Provision should
 " be made, that Seamen, who, by Age,
 " Wounds, or other Accidents, shall become
 " Disabled for the future Service at Sea, and
 " shall not be in a Condition to maintain
 " themselves comfortably, may not fall under
 " Hardships and Miseries, but may be sup-
 " ported at the Publick Charge ; and that
 " the Children of such Disabled Seamen, and
 " also the Widows and Children of such Sea-
 " men as shall be Slain, Killed, or Drowned
 " in the Sea Service, may, in some reasonable
 " manner, be Provided for, it is Enacted, &c.

By this Act a Real Foundation was laid for
 the Building of *Greenwich Hospital*, and mak-
 ing a very comfortable Provision for a consi-
 derable Number of Disabled Seamen, and the
 Widows of Seamen Slain or Drowned, and
 the Education of their Children 'till they were
 able to maintain themselves. But the Clause
 therein, for giving a Bounty, and other Ad-
 vantages, to Registered Seamen, and all
 Clauses, so far as they concerned the Register-
 ing

ing of Seamen, were Repealed by an Act which passed the latter End of the Reign of Her late Majesty Queen *Ann*, for Erecting the *South-Sea Company*.

It has been the constant Wish of all those who have, at any Time since the Repeal of such Part of this Act, imployed themselves in contemplating the lasting Greatness and Prosperity of the Nation, that some Method was rightly Etablissement by Parliament for the effectual Retaining, in Time of Peace, a Number of Able-bodied Seamen in the Publick Service (over and above the Number of Mariners at such Times, either yearly Employed, or annually Provided for, by Parliament) whereby such a Number of Seamen might be almost always ready at Hand to serve on Board the Navy Royal ; so that an entire End might be put to the Practice, which has been so greatly in Use of late, of Impressing Seamen whenever there has been any sudden Occasion for the Manning any additional Number of Ships of War ; which could not fail being of the greatest Service to the Publick, as well as highly pleasing to the Trading Part of the Nation : And if, to procure a Number of Able-bodied Seamen to be always ready at Hand to go on Board the Navy Royal, the Parliament were to give a very considerable Sum of Money annually, it would be Money usefully given : For, it is to be observed, that the Money which is given, will not only be Expended in the Kingdom, in Ease of Parish Rates, but will

will be given to retain in the Service of the Publick, a Number of Men the most necessary of any in the Nation, and such Men as no Money will be able to procure, whenever the Government may be in immediate Want of any very great Number of Seamen. And it is conceived, a Method might be soon found out, by the Wisdom of Parliament, for the effectual answering so Important, Necessary, and Beneficial a National Good.

The Parliament of *England* were so sensible of the Advantages which must accrue to the Nation by the giving Rewards, that, in the Year 1649, for the Encouragement of Seamen and Mariners to apply themselves the more willingly to the Service of the Commonwealth, they Enacted, " That whatso-
 " ever Ship or Ships of the Parliament should
 " Take, Surprize, or Reduce, any Ship or
 " Private Man of War, Enemies to the Par-
 " liament, or that Disturb the Peace of the
 " Commonwealth, or Infest the Seas, and hin-
 " der the Free Trade and Traffick of Mer-
 " chants, and other good People, by Sea,
 " should receive for Reward (over and above
 " their Wages) not only 20 *l.* for each Piece
 " of Ordnance in an Admiral; 16 *l.* in a
 " Vice-Admiral; 12 *l.* in a Rear-Admiral;
 " and 10 *l.* in any other Ship of War, Taken,
 " Sunk, Fired, or by any other Ways or
 " Means Destroyed, but the full Value of all
 " and every Ship or Ships, and the Goods
 " therein, to be distributed amongst the Offi-

“ cers and Seamen of the respective Ships that
 “ should be Acting in the said Service, and
 “ the Widows, Children, and Impotent Pa-
 “ rents of such as should be slain.”

It does not appear that there were any such Rewards, or any Reward, given for the Encouragement of the Seamen of this Kingdom, during the Reign either of King *Charles* the Second, or of King *William* the Third, or for the first four Years of the Reign of *Q. Ann* (unless, by an Act of the 4th and 5th of King *William*, the giving a Reward to every *English* Ship of War, or Privateer, of 10*l.* for each Piece of Ordnance in every *French* Ship of War, or Privateer, Taken or Destroyed) for want of which, it may, probably, in great measure be attributed, that the Trade of this Kingdom suffered so greatly during the Reigns of these Kings, and the first Part of the Reign of this Queen: But, both Houses of Parliament taking the Management of Naval Affairs into their Consideration, were so sensibly affected with the heavy Losses of the Merchants, for want of a due Protection of the Trade of this Kingdom, that, the 6th of that Reign, they passed an Act, entitled, *An Act for the better securing the Trade of this Kingdom by the Cruizers and Convoys*; wherein it was Enacted, “ That not only any Ship or Ships
 “ of War, Privateer, Merchant-Ship, or other
 “ Vessel, taken as Prize by any of Her Majesty's Ships of War, or Privateers, should,
 “ after Condemnation, be their sole Property;
 “ but

" but that the Officers and Seamen taking any
 " Ship or Ships of War, or Privateers, should
 " also be paid by the Treasurer of the Navy
 " 5 l. for every Man that was living Aboard
 " at the Beginning of the Engagement." And
 the House of Lords drew up a long Representation to Her Majesty on the Occasion, which they concluded in these remarkable Words; *It is a most undoubted Maxim; That the Honour, Security and Wealth of this Kingdom, does depend upon the Protection and Incouragement of Trade, and the Improving and Right managing the Naval Strength. Other Nations, who were formerly Great and Powerful at Sea, have, by Negligence and Mismanagement, lost their Trade, and seen their Maritime Strength entirely ruined. Therefore, We do, in the most earnest Manner, beseech Your Majesty, that the Sea Affairs may always be Your First and most Pesuliar Care: We humbly hope, that it will be Your Majesty's Chief and Constant Instruction to All who shall have the Honour to be Employed in Your Councils, and in the Administration of Affairs, that they be continually Intent and Watchful in what concerns the Trade and Fleet: And that every One of them may be made to know, it is his Partieular Charge to take care that the Seamen be Encouraged, the Trade Protected, Discipline Restored, and a new Spirit and Vigour put into the whole Administration of the Navy.*

The Passing of the Act of the 6th of Queen Ann, had a wonderful Effect in reducing the Number of the Enemies Ships of War and

Privateers, and tended greatly to the Security of the Trade of this Kingdom: And, as it is to be hoped, that the like Encouragement will be soon Enacted, together with the further Encouragement of the Reward of 10*l.* for every Piece of Ordnance, and that all such Encouragements and Rewards shall be given during Our being, at any Time afterwards, at War with any Prince or State whatsoever; so it may not be improper to observe, that, if the Encouragement which, by His late Majesty's Proclamation, bearing Date at *Hampton Court* the 5th of *October* 1717, was given, viz.

“ For every Commander of every Pirate Ship
 “ or Vessel, the Sum of 100*l.* for every Lieu-
 “ tenant, Master, Boatswain, Carpenter, and
 “ Gunner, the Sum of 40*l.* for every inferior
 “ Officer, the Sum of 30*l.* and for every pri-
 “ vate Man, the Sum of 20*l.*” was establish-
 ed, by the same Act of Parliament, to be paid by the Treasurer of the Navy, in like manner as the Money is to be paid for every Man of the Enemy taken in Time of War, for the taking of Pirates, it would be one Means, not only of preventing many Persons becoming Pirates, but of putting an End to any Number of Pirates long infesting the Seas, to the Interruption of the Trade, and the Loss of the Merchants of *Great Britain* in Times of Peace.

If it should be objected, That these Encouragements and Rewards will probably occasion the Want of a large Additional Sum of Money to be raised by Parliament, it is
 answered;

answered, by observing, That no Sums of Money can be thought by a Parliament more Justly and more Reasonably to be Raised and Paid, than such Sums as immediately tend to the Protection and Security of the Commerce of the Kingdom, upon which its very Safety and Prosperity depends, and when the Money is only given to those who are Subjects of it, and who spend every Penny, either by themselves, or by their Families, in it; and for the Destroying of Enemies or Pirates, who make it their Business to Prey on the Commerce of the Nation; in which, if they succeed, the Trading Stock of the Kingdom is greatly lessened, and the Duties of Customs and Excises greatly decreased; and in which, if prevented, the Kingdom must be a much greater Gainer, or made ampler Amends, than it can possibly be a Loser, or than it is possible to have raised on the Subject, by means of any Sum of Money to be paid for the Taking or Destroying either Enemies or Pirates. For, let us suppose, that, in Time of Peace, a Thousand Pirates, in different Parties, and in different Parts of the World, were Preying upon this Nation, is it not really worth the while of the Publick of *Great-Britain* to give 20000 *l.* for the Taking and Destroying of such a Number of Villains? It is conceived, this Sum of 20,000 *l.* over and above the Expence of the Ships of War imployed in such Services, will bear no manner of Proportion to the
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the Damages such a Number of Pirates are capable of doing to the Trade and Navigation of *Great-Britain*, and that 5000 *l.* a Year would not be Money ill-bestowed, in Time of War, for the Taking or Destroying of 10,000 of the Enemy, with the Ships or Vessels such a Number of Men are capable of Navigating.

It is to be hoped, that these Things, of so much Importance to the Welfare and Prosperity of *Great-Britain*, will merit the Attention of Parliament at their next Meeting: And this is conceived a Business absolutely necessary to come under their Consideration on many Accounts; but particularly for the making more Easy, and giving greater Spirits to, a Body of Men now venturing their Lives in the Service of their Country, and into which, either by reason of some former bad Usage and Hardships, or for want of due Encouragement, so very many of them were forced, or went so unwillingly: And that, as it was owing, in a great Measure, to that Great and Glorious Princess Queen *Elizabeth*, by the Encouragement She gave to those Enterprizing Men and Brave Adventurers, *Drake, Forbisher, Hawkins, Cavendish*, and others, that *Great-Britain*, at present, is not only so Rich a Kingdom, but so Powerful at Sea, and Master of so considerable a Number of Islands, and such vast Tracts of Land in *America*, by means whereof so great Employment is given to the Manufacturers and Mariners of this Kingdom, and such a constant View of
Treasure

Treasure is daily entering in it—So it is a Matter much to be desired, as it is a Matter, all Things considered, very much wanted, that such Encouragement should be given, at this Time, by the Legislative Authority, not only to Incorporate Bodies of Men, but to all private Persons, as well to make New Settlements, as to range the Seas in some of the most distant Parts of *America*, so that Those who shall succeed to the present Generation may reap as great Profits, and as many Advantages, from their Undertakings, as the present Generation have reaped, not only from the Discoveries and Adventures of those Our Countrymen, and Others abovementioned, but from the taking of the Island of *Jamaica*, and so many *Spanish* Ships of War, and other Ships, with so great Treasure, in the Time of *Cromwell*.

For, notwithstanding what some Persons are pleased to declare, at this Time, on all Occasions, either on Account of particular Views, or for want of knowing the true State of the Foreign and Domestick Trade of *Great-Britain*, it is certain, that this Kingdom is, or will soon be, in want of other Countries, and other People, besides those who now do it, to take off its Product and Manufactures, and imploy its Navigation. Therefore, it is a Duty incumbent upon those, to whom His Majesty Entrusts the chief Management of the Affairs of the Kingdom, to Propose, or Promote, all Parliamentary Encouragements

couragements for the Entering upon Undertakings of such Kind, and to give all possible Countenance and Assistance to the setting them on Foot, and rendering them Effectual, equally as much as it is their Duty at all Times to give Attention to every Thing that may be laid before them, or that may come to their Knowledge, which may be conducive, not only to the Protection and Security, Encouragement and Enlargement, of the Trade and Navigation of *Great-Britain*, but to its Honour and Wealth, its Power and Prosperity: And these Persons cannot, either in a Legislative or Ministerial Capacity, be in want of any Inducement from Others to promote every Encouragement, and give every possible Assistance, to all such Undertakings, since this Kingdom is, undoubtedly, the foremost Nation in the World for Maritime Affairs, whether the Number of its Ships or Mariners, or its People, being the most Experienced Navigators, and the Bravest and Boldest Seamen on the Ocean, be considered; and, since They must be thereby sensible it is the Way to increase the Riches, and advance the Grandeur, of the Nation, according to *Monsieur de Wit*, who said, long ago, *That England had, very profitably, Erected diverse Colonies, and continued so doing, in Remote and Uncultivated Countries, which added an Incredible Strength to that Nation, and produced the greatest Traffic and Navigation.*

As it is greatly to be wished, That the Persons who have it more immediately in their Power, will give all possible Encouragement to their Countrymen's undertaking the Settling of New Colonies, and Ranging the Seas, in the more Remote Parts of *America*; so it is most earnestly Recommended to the Sea-faring People of *Great-Britain*, That they will behave themselves, at all Times, Gallantly, in the Service of their Country, as so many Brave *English* Spirits have done before them, to their Immortal Honour: For, it is a Truth, *That the English have been the Boldest Adventurers, as well as the Bravest Warriors, at Sea; That they have been, almost ever, Victorious; That they have never been Beat by an equal Number of Ships, and, seldom, by a Superior Force.*

October 29, 1739.

Extract from an Act of the 6th of Queen Anne, for the Encouragement of the Trade to America.

AND, for the more effectual Annoying her Majesty's said Enemies, and abating their Power and Wealth in the Parts of *America*, by Numbers of private Ships of War to be equipped and set out in a Warlike Manner, by, and at the Charge of her Majesty's Subjects, and encouraging her Majesty's Subjects to engage in joint and united, as well as separate Expences, Expeditions, and Adventures for those Purposes, *Be it further Enacted,*

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by

by the Authority aforesaid, That Her Majesty be, and She, Her Heirs and Successors, are hereby Impowered from Time to Time, during the Continuance of the present War, to grant or make any Charter, Commission, or Grant, Charters, Commissions, or Grants, for the better or more effectual Enabling any Society or Societies, or particular Persons, to join in any Expeditions or Adventures by Sea or Land, for the Attacking, Surprizing, Taking, or Destroying any Ships, Goods, Moveables and Immoveables, Settlements, Factories, Creeks, Harbours, Places of Strength, Lands, Forts, Castles, and Fortifications, now, or hereafter, of or belonging to, or possessed by, any of Her Majesty's Enemies in any Part or Parts of *America*; and for the better making and carrying on any Preparations for such Purpose and Purposes, and for the making and assuring to the Societies and Persons which may be Concerned, their Heirs, Successors, Executors, Administrators, and Assigns, full and undoubted Properties, Rights and Titles of, in and to, and the full Enjoyment of all and every the Ships, Ammunition, Stores of War, Goods, Chattels, Moveables and Immoveables, Settlements, Factories, Places of Strength or Security, Lands, Forts, Castles, and Fortifications, now, or hereafter, of or belonging to, or possessed by, any of Her Majesty's Enemies in any of the Parts of *America*, which such Society or Persons shall take, or cause to be taken, from any of Her Majesty's

Majesty's Enemies, during this present War, together with all the Proceed, Profits and Advantages, which may accrue of or by the same, or any of them, with and under such Regulations, and in such Manner and Form, as Her Majesty, Her Heirs and Successors, shall think fit; and at any Time or Times afterwards (although the present War should be then ended) by any further Grants or Charters to confirm, corroborate, and further assure the Premises, and every or any of them, to the said Societies and Persons Concerned, their and every of their Successors, Heirs, Executors, Administrators and Assigns, so as to Enable them, and every of them, to Have, Hold, and Enjoy the full Benefit thereof, according to the true Intent and Meaning of this Act.

Extracts from several Authors of some of the many Remarkable Actions between the English and the Spaniards at Sea.

Extract from Cambden's Annals of Queen Elizabeth, &c.

THE 13th of November 1577, Capt. Francis Drake, afterwards Sir Francis Drake, whose Godfather was Francis Russel Earl of Bedford, set sail from Plimonth with Five Ships, and 163 Seamen, for the South Seas; and, on the 20th of August, turneth off two of his Ships, and, with the other three, passed the Sea called the Straits of Magellan, and, the 6th

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of

of *September*, entering into the wide *South-Sea* Ocean, which they call the *Pacifique Sea*, his Ships were, by Tempests, dispersed; one of which returned back to *England*. *Drake*, with only one Ship, coasted along the Shore till he came to the Island of *Moncha*, where he met a Fellow fishing in a little Boat, who shewed him where a *Spanish* Ship laden with Treasure lay; *Drake* making towards it, the *Spaniards* thought him to be their own Countryman, and thereupon invited him to come on; but he getting on Board, presently shut the *Spaniards* under Hatches, and took the Ship, in which was 400 Weight of Gold. After this, going into the Port of *Africa*, he found there three Vessels without any Mariners in them; wherein, besides other Wares, were Fifty-seven Silver Bials, each of which weighed Twenty Pounds. From whence tid-ing it to *Lima*, he found twelve Ships in one Road, and, in three of them, great Store of Silks, and Chests full of Money coined. Then putting to Sea with those Ships, he followed the rich Ship called the *Cacofogo*, and, by the Way, met with a small Ship without Ordnance or other Arms; out of which he took fourscore Pounds Weight of Gold, a golden Crucifix, and some Emeralds of a Finger's Length. The first Day of *March* he overtook the *Cacofogo*, set upon her, and took her, and found in her, besides Jewels, fourscore Pounds Weight of Gold, thirteen Chests of Silver ready coined, and as much Silver as would ballast a Ship;

a Ship; and now, thinking he had gained Wealth enough, he resolved to return home, and so, on the 3d of *November* 1580, he landed at *Plymouth*.

A War being, in 1587, foresaw from the King of *Spain*, *Drake* was sent with four of the Queen's Ships, and others, unto the Coast of *Spain*, to set upon their Ships in their Havens, and to intercept their Munition. *Drake*, entering into the Port of *Cales*, sunk, took, and fired, about an hundred Ships, wherein was great Store of Munition and Victuals. Thence setting Sail to the Western Islands called *Azores*, by great good Fortune he happened upon an huge and wealthy Carack, called *St. Philip*, returning from the *East Indies*, and easily vanquished it; whereupon the Mariners, on both Sides, from the Name of *Philip*, portended no good Luck to *Philip K. of Spain*.

At the same Time, *Thomas Cavendish*, of *Suffolk*, who had two Years before set Sail from *England* with three Ships, passed thro' the Straits of *Magellan*, and, on the Coasts of *Chily*, *Peru*, and *Nova Hispania*, fired a great Number of *Spanish* Towns, took and pillaged nineteen Great Ships, and, amongst them, a wealthy Ship of the King, nigh unto *Calapurnia*, and so, by the *Philippine Isles*, the *Molaccas*, the *Cape de Bone Esperance*, and the *Ile of St. Helena*, returned home the next Year.

The Armada of *Spain*, which was three whole Years in preparing, was, in less than a Month,

Month, in the Year 1588, many Days fought with, and, at length, put to Flight, with many of their Men slain, and more than Half of their Ships taken, sunk, and otherwise destroyed. Queen *Elizabeth* conferred on the Lord Admiral a certain Revenue for his Service, and many Times commended him and the Captains of her Ships, as Men born for the Preservation of their Country. The rest She graciously saluted by Name, as often as She saw them, as Men that had so well merited of Her and the Commonwealth; where-with they esteemed themselves well rewarded, and those that were Wounded and Indigent, She relieved with Noble Pensions.

The Queen, that She might prosecute the Victory given her by God against the *Spaniards*, supposing it more Safe and Honourable to Assail the Enemy, than to be Assailed by him, suffered a Fleet to be set forth against *Spain*, which, by a noble Undertaking, and with a Military Alacrity, never sufficiently to be commended, Sir *John Norris*, and Sir *Francis Drake*, being verily persuaded, that the Power of the *Spaniards* in *Spain*, consisted more in Opinion than Real Strength, Rigged and Prepared at their own, and other Private Men's Charges, requiring Nothing, in a manner, of the Queen, but a few Men of War. This Fleet Sailed from *Plymouth* in April 1589, and first assaulted and took the *Groyne*, burning some Ships, and finding Victuals of all Sorts, and Provisions of War, there, which were con-

voyed

voyed on Board the *English* Ships, and Pillaged and Fired the Villages round about; then taking the Castle of *Cascais* by Composition, with Sixty Hulks of the Hanse Towns of *Germany*, laden with Wheat, and all manner of Provision for Shipping, to furnish a new Armada against *England*: And, setting Sail from thence, took and fired *Vigo*, a Town upon the Coast, and Pillaged the Country near adjoining, returned into *England* with 150 Pieces of Great Ordnance, and a very Rich Booty: And *England* reaped this Benefit from this Voyage, that, from this Time forward, it feared nothing from *Spain*, but took greater Heart and Courage against the *Spaniards*.

The Hanse Towns made great Complaints, mingled with Threats, of taking their Hulks, as if their antient Privileges were violated. The Queen answered, That She had forewarned them, that they should carry no Provision of War to the Enemies of the Kingdom of *England*: That, carrying such Provisions, She had lawfully taken them, and could do no other, unless She would willingly bring Destruction upon Herself and Her People: That Privileges, which are but Private Laws, are not to be claimed, or allowed, in Prejudice to the Publick Safety, which is the highest Law: Yea, in that Privilege of King Edward the First, granted to the Hanse Towns, it is expressly provided, that they should not carry any Merchandize into the Dominions of the Professed and Notorious Enemies of the Kingdom of *England*; That their Merchandizes had been several Times

Times made Stay of, and Detained, when, in the War with France, they had supplied the French with Provisions; and this had been done, not only by the English, but also, upon the same Grounds, by Charles the Fifth, the Kings of Sweeden, Denmark and Poland, and very lately by the Prince of Orange, and that agreably to the Law of Nations: That We were so to make Use of a Neutrality, that, while We help the one, We hurt not the other: That it becometh not Cities and Towns to use Threatnings and Menaces to Kings; for Her Part, She feared not the Threats of the greatest Kings, much less of particular Cities; and, for the due and just Rights of Neighbourhood, She would punctually observe them with all Men.

And now, Queen Elizabeth considering that the King of Spain's chiefest Strength was in his Gold of *America*, sends forth Sir *Walter Raleigh*, with Fifteen Ships, to meet with the *Spanish Fleet* from *America*; who, receiving Intelligence at Sea, that the Fleet would not return that Year, divided his Fleet into two Parts, whereof the one he committed to Sir *John Burroughs*, the other to Sir *Martin Forbisher*; when, soon after, a mighty Carack came in View, called, *The Mother of God*, which, from the Beak to the Stern, was One hundred threescore and five Feet long, built with seven Decks, and carrying 600 Men. This great Vessel they took, and, in it, to the Value of more than 150000 *l. Sterling*.

And

And, in the same Year, in *America*, *James Lancaster*, who had been set forth by some Merchants of *London*, whose Goods had been seized, with three Ships and a Long Boat, took Thirty-nine *Spanish* Ships; and, afterwards, desperately venturing on those at *Ter-manbacke* in *Brazil*, he loaded Fifteen Ships with the Wealth of an *East India* Carack just unloaden there, and with Sugar, Red Wood, and other Merchandizes, and safely and victoriously returned to *England*.

Queen *Elizabeth*, to divert the King of *Spain* from Invading *England*, thought it the best Way to Invade his Dominions; and, accordingly, a Fleet of Ships, with great Land Forces, under the Command of *Robert Earl of Essex* and *Charles Howard*, Lord Admiral of *England*, attended with upwards of 1000 Voluntiers of the Nobility and Gentry, sailed from *Plymouth* the Beginning of *June* 1595, and, on the 20th of *June*, cast Anchor on the West Side of *Cadiz*, and soon set upon the *Spanish* Ships; the Gallies quickly fled, and, creeping along the Shore, shifted away; but the *Spanish* Ships that lay at Anchor at *Pontal*, turned their Broadfides, so that the Fight with them lasted from Break of Day till Noon; at which Time, the *Spaniards* having their Galleons miserably torn, and many of their Men slain, resolved to fire their Ships and run them ashore. The *Spanish* Admiral, being 1500 Ton, was fired by a *Moor*; and two other Ships, which lay next her, took Fire,
D and

and were lost likewise. When the Sea-Fight was ended, the Earl of *Essen* landed a Number of Soldiers at *Pontal*, and became Master of the City of *Cadiz*, with the Castle, which the *English* was no sooner in Possession of, but *Raleigh* was commanded to fire the Merchant Ships lying at *Port Real*, which, to redeem, he was offered Two Millions of Ducats; but this the Admiral would not hear of, saying, *That he was sent to Destroy Ships, not to Dismiss them upon Composition.* A World of Munition was found in the City, and great Store of Money privately carried away, every one pillaging for himself. The *Spaniards* could not be damaged less, by this Expedition, than Twenty Millions of Ducats.

Extract from Bishop Burnet's History of his own Times.

BLAKE, with the Fleet, hapned to be at *Malaga* before he made War upon *Spain*, and some of his Seamen went Ashore, and met the Hostia carried about, and not only paid no Respect to it, but laughed at those who did; so one of the Priests put the People on resenting this Indignity, and they fell upon them and beat them severely. When they returned to their Ship, they complained of this Usage; and, upon that, *Blake* sent a Trumpet to the Viceroy, to demand the Priest who was the chief Instrument in that ill Usage. The Viceroy answered, *He had no Authority*
over

over the Priest, and so could not dispose of him. Blake, upon that, sent him Word, That he would not enquire who had the Power to send the Priest to him; but, if he were not sent within three Hours, he would burn their Town; and they being in no Condition to resist him, sent the Priest to him, who justified himself upon the petulant Behaviour of the Seamen. Blake answered, That if he had sent a Complaint to him of it, he would have punished them severely, since he would not suffer his Men to affront the established Religion of any Place at which he touched; but he took it ill that he set on the Spaniards to do it; for, he would have all the World to know, that an Englishman was only to be punished by an Englishman; and so he treated the Priest civilly and sent him back, being satisfied that he had him in his Mercy. Cromwell was much delighted with this, and read the Letters in Council with great Satisfaction, and said, He hoped he should make the Name of an Englishman as great as ever that of a Roman had been.

Extract from Lord Clarendon's History.

THE other Fleet, under the Command of Blake, had better Success, without any Misadventures. After he had reduced those of Algiers, where he anchored in their very Mole, to submit to such Conditions for the Time past, and the Time to come, as he thought reasonable, he sailed to Tunis; which

he found better fortified, and more resolved; for that King return'd a very rude Answer, contemning his Strength, and undervaluing his Menaces, and refusing to return either Ship or Prisoner that had been taken. Whereupon *Blake* put his Fleet in Order, and thunder'd with his great Guns upon the Town; whilst he sent out several long Boats, Mann'd with stout Mariners, who, at the same Time, enter'd with very notable Resolution into their Harbours, and set Fire to all the Ships there, being nine Men of War, which were burnt to Ashes; and this with the Loss of only 25 of the *English*, and about 48 Hurt; all the Boats, with the rest of the Men, returning safe to the Ships. This was, indeed, an Action of the highest Conduct and Courage, and made the Name of the *English* very terrible and formidable in those Seas.

The Success of both Fleets came to *Cromwell's* Notice about the same Time, but did not affect him alike. He was never so discomposed (for he had usually a great Command over his Passions) as upon the Miscarriage at *Hispaniola*. And, as soon as they came on Shore, he committed both *Pen* and *Venables* to the Tower, and could never be persuaded to trust either of them again; and could not, in a long Time, speak temperately of that Affair. However, he lost no Time in cherishing his Infant Plantation in *Jamaica*; which many thought to be at too great a Distance, and wish'd the Men might be recalled; but he would not hear of it; and sent presently a good Squadron of Ships, and a Recruit of 1500 Men, to carry on that Work; and resolved nothing more, than to make a continual War from that Place upon the *Spaniards*.

When Admiral *Blake* had subdued the *Turks* of *Tunis* and *Algiers*, and betaken himself to the Coast of *Spain*, and by the Attempt of *Hispaniola*, and the Possession of *Jamaica*, the War was sufficiently declared against the Catholick King, *Mountague*, a young Gentleman

Gentleman of a good Family, who had been drawn into the Party of *Cromwell*, and served under him as a Colonel in his Army with much Courage, was sent with an Addition of Ships to join with *Blake*, and joined in Commission of Admiral and General with him; *Blake* having found himself much indisposed in his Health, and having desired that another might be sent to assist him, and to take Care of the Fleet, if worse should befall him. Upon his Arrival with the Fleet, they lay long before *Cales*, in Expectation of the *Spanish West-India Fleet*, and to keep in all Ships from going out to give Notice of their being there. After some Months Attendance, they were at last compelled to remove their Station, that they might get fresh Water, and some other Provisions which they wanted; and so drew off to a convenient Bay in *Portugal*, and left a Squadron of Ships to watch the *Spanish Fleet*; which, within a very short Time after the Remove of the *English Fleet*, came upon the Coast; and, before they were discovered by the Commander of the Squadron, who was to the Leeward, made their Way so fast, that, when he got up with them (though he was inferior to them in Number) they rather thought of saving their Wealth by flight, than of defending themselves; and so the *Spanish Admiral* run on Shore in the Bay; and the Vice-Admiral, in which was the Vice-King of *Mexico*, with his Wife, and Sons, and Daughters, fir'd; in which the poor Gentleman himself, his Wife, and his eldest Daughter, perish'd: His other Daughters, and his two Sons, and near 100 others, were saved by the *English*; who took the Rear-Admiral, and another Ship very richly laden; which, together with the Prisoners, were sent into *England*; the rest escaped into *Gibraltar*.

But that which made a Noise, indeed, and Crown'd his Successes, was the Victory his Fleet, under the Command of *Blake*, had obtained over the *Spaniards*; which, in Truth, with all its Circumstances, was very wonderful,

wonderful, and will never be forgotten in Spain and the *Canaries*. That Fleet had rode out all the Winter Storms before *Cales* and the Coast of *Portugal*, after they had sent home those former Ships which they had taken of the *West-India* Fleet, and understood by the Prisoners, that the other Fleet from *Pera*, which is always much richer than that of *Mexico*, was undoubtedly at Sea, and would be on the Coast by the Beginning of Spring, if they received not Advertisement of the Presence of the *English* Fleet; in which Case they were most like to stay at the *Canaries*. The Admiral concluded, that notwithstanding all they had done, or could do, to block up *Cales*, one Way or the other they would not be without that Advertisement; and therefore resolved to sail with the whole Fleet to the Length of the *Canaries*, that, if it were possible, they might meet the Galeons before they came thither; and, if they should be first got in thither, they would then consider what was to be done.

With this Resolution the Fleet stood for the *Canaries*, and, about the Middle of *April*, came thither; and found that the Galeons were got thither before them, and had placed themselves, as they thought, in Safety. The smaller Ships, being Ten in Number, lay in a Semicircle, moor'd along the Shore; and the Six great Galeons (the Fleet consisting of 16 good Ships) which could not come so near the Shore, lay with their Broad-sides towards the *Offin*. Besides this good Posture in which all the Ships lay, they were cover'd with a strong Castle well furnish'd with Guns; and there were Six or Seven small Forts rais'd in the most advantageous Places of the Bay, every one of them furnish'd with divers good Pieces of Cannon; so that they were without the least Apprehension of their want of Security, or Imagination that any Men would be so desperate, as to assault them upon such apparent Disadvantage.

When

When the *English* Fleet came to the Mouth of the Bay of *Santa-Cruz*, and the General saw in what Posture the *Spaniard* lay, he thought it impossible to bring off any of the Galeons ; however, he resolv'd to burn them (which was by many thought to be equally impossible) and sent Captain *Stayner*, with a Squadron of the best Ships, to fall upon the Galeons ; which he did very resolutely ; whilst other Frigates entertained the Forts, and lesser Breast-works, with continual Broad-sides to hinder their firing. Then the General coming up with the whole Fleet, after full four Hours Fight, they drove the *Spaniards* from their Ships, and possessed them ; yet found that their Work was not done ; and that it was not only impossible to carry away the Ships, which they had taken, but the Wind that brought them into the Bay, and enabled them to Conquer the Enemy, would not serve to carry them out again ; so that they lay exposed to all the Cannon from the Shore, which thundered upon them. However, they resolv'd to do what was in their Power ; and so, discharging their Broad-sides upon the Forts and Land, where they did great Execution, they set Fire to every Ship, Galeons, and others, and burn'd every one of them ; which they had no sooner done, but it happen'd the Wind turn'd, and carried the whole Fleet, without Loss of one Ship, out of the Bay, and put them safe to Sea again.

The whole Action was so miraculous, that all Men who knew the Place, wonder'd that any sober Men, with what Courage soever endued, would ever have undertaken it ; and they could hardly persuade themselves to believe what they had done ; whilst the *Spaniards* comforted themselves with the Belief, that they were Devils, and not Men, who had destroy'd them in such a Manner. So much a strong Resolution of bold and courageous Men can bring to pass, that no Resistance and Advantage of Ground can disappoint them.

them. And it can hardly be imagin'd, how small Loss the *English* sustain'd in this unparallel'd Action; no one Ship being left behind, and the Killed and Wounded not exceeding 200 Men, when the Slaughter on board the *Spanish* Ships, and on the Shore, was incredible.

The Fleet, after this, having been long abroad, found it necessary to return home. And this was the last Service performed by *Blake*; who sicken'd in his Return, and in the very Entrance of the Fleet into the Sound of *Plymouth*, expired. He wanted no Pomp of Funeral when he was dead, *Cromwell* causing him to be brought up by Land to *London* in all the State that could be; and to encourage his Officers to venture their Lives, that they might be pompously Buried, he was, with all the Solemnity possible, and at the Charge of the Publick, interr'd in *Henry VII's* Chapel, among the Monuments of Kings. He was the first Man that declined the old Track, and made it manifest that Science might be attained in less Time than was imagined; and despised those Rules which had been long in Practice, to keep his Ship and his Men out of Danger; which had been held in former Times a Point of great Ability and Circumspection; as if the principal Art requisite in the Captain of a Ship, had been to be sure to come home safe again. He was the first Man who brought the Ships to contempt Castles on Shore, which had been thought ever very formidable, and were discovered by him to make a Noise only, and to fright those who could rarely be hurt by them. He was the first that infused that Proportion of Courage into Seamen, by making them see by Experience, what mighty Things they could do, if they were resolved; and taught them to Fight in Fire as well as upon Water; and tho' he hath been very well imitated and followed, he was the first that gave the Example of that kind of Naval Courage, and bold and resolute Atchievements.

Extract

Extract from Mr. Burchett's History of the most Remarkable Transactions at Sea.

THE General, according to Agreement, Landed with the Forces, when marching directly to the Fort, he attacked the *French* and Battery, and became Master of them after a hot Dispute. They chased the *French* and *Spaniards* into the Fort, and, afterwards, beat them from thence to their Boats, although they were, in and about this Place (as it was credibly reported) near 20,000 Strong; and, indeed, had not this Fort, and the Battery at the End of the Trench, been first taken, there would have been much more Difficulty found in breaking the Boom, and burning the *French* Ships; but that Service was no sooner performed, than the Ships advanced, and Vice-Admiral *Hopson*, in the *Torbay*, crowding all the Sail he could, when he came to the Boom, the Force which the Ship had (considering its great Length, and consequently its Weakness) brake it, and several other Ships, soon after, made their Way through. There was, at this Time, a very great Fire between Our Ships and the Enemy, and one of their Fireships laid the *Torbay* on board, but the former having a large Quantity of Sauff in her, and blowing up, the very Blast extinguished greatest Part of the Flames, and thereby enabled those few Officers and Men, who staid on Board (for the most Part of them betook themselves to the Water) to preserve the Ship; for which good Service, they were, when they came home, deservedly rewarded; some with Medals and Chains of Gold, and the rest according to their respective Qualities.

While Vice-Admiral *Hopson* was thus employed about the Boom, Captain *William Rockenham*, in the *Association*, a Ship of 90 Guns, laid her Broadside to the Battery, on the Left of the Harbour, which he

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soon

soon disabled; and Captain *Francis Wrell*, in the *Barfleur*, a Ship of the like Force, was sent to batter the Fort on the other Side, from which several Shot were fired, which penetrated through the Ship, but he was restrained from answering them in the same Manner, because it might have done great Damage to our Troops, who, soon after, beat the Enemy from their Guns, and took the Fort, as I have already related. They fired on our Ships, at first, from all Parts, and our People were so far from being behind-hand with them, that, in about Half an Hour's Time, they, in great Confusion, set Fire to several of their Ships, and betook themselves to their Boats. Mean while, the Inhabitants, and Others, in *Redondela*, deserted it.

Extract from the Annals of Queen Anne.

IN this Action (at *Vigo*) there was taken and burnt, sunk, or bilged, 17 Sail of *French* Men of War, and four smaller Ships, three *Spanish* Men of War, and 13 Galeons.

This Great and Memorable Victory was obtained with very inconsiderable Loss; for, besides the Damage received by Vice-Admiral *Hopson*, as above-mentioned, the *Kent* had only her Foremast shot, and Boatswain wounded; the *Association* her Main-Mast shot, and two killed; the *Barfleur* had her Main-Mast shot, two Men killed, and two wounded; and the *Mary* her Bolt-Sprit shot. Of the Landmen, two Lieutenants and about 40 Soldiers were slain; Colonel *Pierce* was wounded, with a Cannon-shot from Our own Men of War, in the Thigh, and Colonel *Seymour*, Colonel *Newton*, Mr. *Talmash*, and about 30 private Men, were also wounded.

History cannot determine the Value of the Booty the Confederates gained in this bold and successful Attempt, tho' 'tis not what they got, but what the Enemy

Enemy lost, that is chiefly to be regarded; and which, indeed, was very considerable. However, to make a reasonable Conjecture of both, it may be remarked, that this *Spanish* Flota was universally acknowledged to be the Richest that ever came from the *West-Indies* into *Europe*; that the Silver and Gold it had on Board, was computed at 20 Millions of Pieces of Eight, of which 14 Millions only were taken out of the Galeons and secured by the Enemy, and the rest was either taken or left in the Galeons that were burnt or sunk; and that the Goods were valued at 20 Millions of Pieces of Eight more, one fourth Part of which was saved, near two destroyed, and the other taken by the Confederates, besides the Ships already mentioned, and a great deal of Plate and Goods belonging to private Persons, most Part of which was either taken or lost.

An Account of Sir Charles Wager's Attacking the Galeons.

HER Britannick Majesty's Maritime Forces were not less successful in the *West-Indies*, than in *Europe*: For, in the Month of *May*, 1708, Capt. Coleby, Commander of a Privateer Sloop, of about 100 Men, meeting with 14 Sail of Brigantines and Sloops, laden with valuable Goods, going from the Galeons at *Porto-Bello*, to *Panama*, under Convoy of the Duke of *Anjou's* Guard-Sloop, of between 70 and 80 Men, bravely fought the Guard-Sloop, and two others that stood by her, for two Hours, and took her and six more. The Spaniards offer'd Capt. Coleby 180,000 Pieces of Eight for the Ransom of the Sloops, which he refused: brought five of them into *Jamaica*, and the other two, after he had taken the Goods out, he gave to the *French* and *Spaniards* to carry them ashore.

But much more glorious and profitable to himself (tho' ignominious, and, in the End, fatal to his Companions) was the Action perform'd by Commodore Wager, who having had an Account by several Trading Sloops, That the *Spanish* Galeons lay at *Porto-Bello*,

Bello, and were equipping, with all Expedition, to sail for *Carthagera*, and thence to the *Havana*, or *Cuba*, there to join with *Monſieur du Caſſe*, who attended with a *French Squadron* to convoy them to *Europe*; he immediately made ready, and ſail'd, on the 6th of *March*, from *Port-Royal* in *Jamaica*, himſelf in the *Expedition*, accompany'd with the *King ſton*, *Portland*, and *Vultur Fireſhip*, deſigning, if poſſible, to intercept ſome of them in their Paſſage. They continued at Sea 'till the 23d of *April*, without any Adventure, at which Time they bore away to *Sancta Martha* to Water; and having ſupply'd themſelves, they ſtood away for *Motherly Papps*, and thence to cruize off *Carthagera*, where they lay off and on ſeveral Days, without meeting with any Thing, 'till the 2d of *May* in the Morning, when they diſcover'd a Sloop coming from the Southward, who gave the Commodore an Account, That there were 13 Sail of Galeons, and three Fireſhips, lying at *Porto-Bello*, ready to ſail; whereupon they lay waiting for them ſeveral Days. The Commodore being now out of Hopes, diſpatch'd a Sloop to *Jamaica*, to give an Account, That he feared he had miſſed the Galeons; but, on the 28th of *May*, they ſaw 17 Sail of Ships to Leeward, between the *Brew* and *Friends* Iſlands. The Commodore being fully reſolved, notwithstanding all Difficulties, to make himſelf Maſter of ſome of them, immediately form'd a Line of Battle, with his ſmall Number of four Sail, and bore down on the Enemy, who took little Notice of it, not thinking he would be ſo reſolute as to engage them. But, contrary to their Expectation, about ſix in the Evening the Commodore came a long-ſide of their Admiral, who mounted 64 Braſs Guns; and had preſently three Sail more on him, viz. the Vice-Admiral of 50 Braſs Guns, the Rear-Admiral of 44, and a *French Ship* of 36 Guns. With theſe four Sail did the *Expedition* engage for the ſpace of four Hours, in which Time

the *Spanish* Admiral blew up, and, of 700 Men, only eight were saved; and she was so near the *Expedition*, that the Blast forced much Water into the Ports of her Lower Gun-deck, but did no other Damage. The Vice-Admiral having his Upper-Deck blown up, bore away, as most of the Fleet had done before; but the Rear-Admiral, of 44 Guns, and 600 Men, was taken by the Commodore; and, had the *Kingston* and *Portland* (who all this Time did nothing) bore away after the Vice-Admiral, as 'twas their Orders to do, they must, in all Probability, have taken or destroy'd most Part of the Fleet; but, on the contrary, they only chased one Ship of 40 Guns on Shore, which the Enemy burnt; while, in the mean time, the rest of the Fleet made their Escape.

The *Spanish* Admiral which blew up, was reckon'd to be worth 30 Millions of Pieces of Eight; the Vice-Admiral that got into *Cartagena* 20; and tho' the Cargo of the Rear-Admiral was much inferior to the rest, yet the Value of this Ship was computed to be above 500,000 *l.* And this Advantage was the more considerable, in that it cost him only Two Men killed, and Eight or Nine wounded.

N. B. The Vice-Admiral, with several Ships, were afterwards taken by Mr. Littleton near *Cartagena*.

Extract from an Account of the British Fleet to Sicily in the Years 1718, 1719, and 1720, under the Command of Sir George Byng, Bart. afterwards Viscount Torrington.

THE Admiral had received Intelligence, that the *Spanish* Fleet weighed from *Paradise* (which is a Road at the Entrance of the Harbour of *Messina*) the Day before his Arrival off the *Fare*, which made him conclude, that they were retired to *Malla*; and, therefore, upon receiving the Marquis's Answer, he immediately weighed, with an Intention to come with his

his Squadron before *Messina*, in order to encourage and support the Garrison in the Citadel; but as he stood in about the Point of the *Fare* towards *Messina*, he saw two of the *Spanish* Scouts in the *Fare*, and being informed, at the same time, by a *Felucca*, which came off from the *Calabrian* Shore, that they saw from the Hills the *Spanish* Fleet lying by, the Admiral altered his Design, and sending away General *Wetzel* with the *German* Troops, to *Reggio*, under the Convoy of two Men of War, he stood thro' the *Fare* with his Squadron, with all the Sail he could, after their Scouts, imagining they would lead him to their Fleet, which accordingly they did; for, before Noon, he had a fair Sight of their whole Fleet lying by, and drawn into a Line of Battle, consisting of 27 Sail of Men of War, small and great, besides two Fire-ships, four Bomb-Vessels, seven Gallies, and several Ships laden with Stores and Provisions, commanded by the Admiral *Don Antonio de Castaneta*, and under him four Rear-Admirals, *Chacan*, *Mari*, *Guevara*, and *Commoik*. On the Sight of the *English* Squadron, they stood away large, but in Order of Battle. The Admiral followed them all the rest of that Day, and the succeeding Night, with small Gales N Etly, and sometimes Calm, with fair Weather. The next Morning early (the 11th) the *English* being got pretty near up with them, the Marquis *de Mari*, Rear-Admiral, with six *Spanish* Men of War, and all the Gallies, Fireships, Bomb-Vessels, and Storeships, separated from their main Fleet, and stood in for the *Sicilian* Shore; upon which the Admiral detached Captain *Walton*, of the *Canterbury*, with five more Ships after them, and the *Argyle* and *Canterbury* getting within Gun-shot of the headmost Ship about six in the Morning, the *Argyle* fired a Shot to bring her to, which she not minding, the *Argyle* fired another, and the *Canterbury*, being something nearer, fired another; upon which the *Spanish* Ship fired her Stern Chace at the *Canterbury*, and then the Engage-

ment

ment began. The Admiral pursuing the main Body of the *Spanish* Fleet, the *Orford*, Captain *Falkingham*, and the *Grafton*, Captain *Haddock*, came up first with them, about 10 o'Clock, at whom the *Spaniards* fired their stern Chace Guns. The Admiral sent Orders to those two Ships not to fire, unless the *Spaniards* repeated their Firing, which they doing, the *Orford* attacked the *Santa Rosa*, of 64 Guns, and took her. The *St. Carlos*, of 60 Guns, struck next, without much Opposition, to the *Kent*, Captain *Mathews*. The *Grafton* attacked warmly the Prince of *Asturias*, of 70 Guns, formerly called the *Cumberland*, in which was Rear-Admiral *Cbacon*, but the *Bredab* and *Captain* coming up, Captain *Haddock* left that Ship much shattered for them to take, and stretched a head after another Ship of 60 Guns, which had kept firing on his Starboard Bow, during his Engagement with the Prince of *Asturias*. About one of the Clock, the *Kent*, and soon after the *Superbe*, Captain *Master*, came up with, and engaged, the *Spanish* Admiral of 74 Guns, who, with two Ships more, fired on them, and made a running Fight 'till about three; and then the *Kent* bearing down upon him, and under his Stern, gave him her Broadside, and fell to *Lee-ward*. Afterwards the *Superbe* putting for it to lay the Admiral aboard, fell on his Weather Quarter; upon which, the *Spanish* Admiral shifting his Helm, the *Superbe* ranged up under his *Lee* Quarter; on which he struck to her. At the same time the *Barfleur*, in which was the Admiral, being a-stern of the *Spanish* Admiral within Shot, and inclining on his Weather Quarter, Rear-Admiral *Guevara*, and another 60 Gun Ship, which were to Windward, bore down upon him, and gave him their Broadfides, and then clapt upon a Wind, standing in for the Land: The Admiral immediately tacked and stood after them, untill it was almost Night; but it being little Wind, and they galing away out of his Reach, he left pursuing them,

them, and stood in to the Fleet, which he joined
Hours after Night. The *Essex* took the *Yana* of
Guns, the *Montague* and *Rupert* took the *Palma*
44 Guns, and Rear-Admiral *Daleval*, in the *Dartmouth*,
took the *Isabella* of 60 Guns. This Action
happened off Cape *Passaro*, at about six Leagues Dis-
tance from the Shore. The *English* received but little
Damage. The Ship that suffered most was the *Gu-
ton*, which being a good Sailor, her Captain engaged
several Ships of the Enemy, always pursuing the
Headmost, and leaving those Ships he had disabled
damaged, to be taken by those that followed him. The
Admiral lay by some Days at Sea, to visit the Rights
of his Ships, and to repair the Damages the *Prin-
ce* had sustained; and the 18th received a Letter from
Captain *Walton*, * giving an Account, that he had
taken four *Spanish* Men of War, one of 60 Guns,
commanded by Rear-Admiral *Mari*, one of 54,
one of 40, and one of 24 Guns, with a Bomb-Vessel,
and a Ship laden with Arms; and burnt four Men
of War, one of 54 Guns, two of 40, and one of 24
Guns, with a Fireship and a Bomb-Vessel.

The Captain was one whose natural Talents were
fitter for achieving a gallant Action, than devising
one, yet his Letter, on this Occasion, carries in it
a Strain of military Eloquence, that it is worth
quoting here.

SIR,

We have taken and destroyed all the *Spanish*
Ships and Vessels, which were upon the Coast, the
Prize as per Margin. I am, &c.

Canterbury off G. WALTON
Syracusa, 16th, August, 1718.

* He was Knighted for this Action, and made a Knight
some time after.

F I N I S
E R R A T A

Page 5. Line 11. for, Prince and State, r. Prince of Spain
l. 20. for, any other Port or Harbour, r. any of their
Harbours; p. 13. l. 26. after upon, add, the Trade
l. 27. for really, r. richly p. 14. l. 3. for 5,000 l. r. 50,000